Trade between India and Taiwan

3141. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps have been taken by Government to promote trade between India and Taiwan;

(b) whether the NGO's are proposed to be involved in this purpose;

(c) what are the other measures proposed to be adopted by Government for promoting trade between both the countries; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d) Trade with Taiwan is being promoted by various means innluding exchange of delegations, exchange of trade related information between the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industries and the counterpart Taiwanese organisation, amongst others. It is learnt that a non-official organization, the India-Taipei Association, intends to set up an office in Taipei to promote trade and economic links between the two business communities. The India Taiwan Joint Business Cooperation Committee which was established in 1992 has also been meeting regularly.

Import of toxic substances

3142. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that toxic substances such as plastic waste, lead ash and scrap betteries are being imported from western countries by certain industrial and business houses exposing our country to serious health hazards;

(b) if so, what are the names of these importers and quantity imported of these items; and

(c) what steps are beng taken to ban such impots?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) Keeping in view the likely hazads posed by the import of such wastes the current Export and Import Policy has included hazardous wastes in the 'Negative List of Imports'. Further, Import of all types of plastic wastes (except PET bottle waste) is not permitted except against a licence.

News item concerning threat of dumping

3143. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA:

SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item captioned "India faces threat of dumping "WTO" which appeared in 'The Hindustan Times' dated the 30th March, 1995; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It appears that an opinion has been expressed that India may face the threat of dumping due to reduction of import duties. Provisions exist under the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 and the Customs (Identification, Assessment and Collection of Anti-dumping Duty on dumped articles and for determination of Injury) Rules, 1995 by which

the Designat Authority in the Ministry of Cor ierce may initiate and investigation on dumping of a product based on a petition filed by the domestic industry. Mechanism do exist to counteract such dumping by the levy of an additional Customs duty.

Exim policy neglecting exports

3144. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:

SHRI P. UPENDRA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item published in 'The Hindustan Times' dated the 6th April, 1995 captioned "Exim policy neglects exports";

(b) whether it is a fact that there are 1.50 lakh exporters and the new policy encourages exports of only 2000 major exporters categorised as 'Star' and 'Super Star' and neglects 1.48 lakh exporters as alleged by the President of Delhi Exporters Association.

(c) whether it is a fact that 75 per cent. of the country's exports are made by small, medium and cottage exporters;

(d) whether it is also a fact that import policy encourages physical imports which would close local industry;

(e) if not, the details thereof and reasons therefor;

(f) whether it is a fact that duty on imports through advance licence is to be paid first and then MODVAT to be claimed at the time of the entry of the imported goods at factory blocking the working capital for months; and

(g) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBRAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Under the EXIM Policy exporters achieving the threshold limit of export performance are given the status of Export House|Trading House|Star Trading House|Super Star Trading House. For the purpose of their eligibility, the products which are manufactured by SSI Sector including sports goods are given double weightage and products manufactured by Handlooms and Handicrafts sector including handknotted carpets and silk products are given a triple weightage. There are about 1733 EH|TH|STH|SSTH. No separate figures of exporters is maintained but approximately 35 percent export pertains to SSI sector.

(d) and (e) All imports are free except for those items included in the negative list of imports.

(f) and (g) Additional customs duty alone would have to be paid at the time of import. This is considered necessary to ensure that double benefit does not accrue. Eligible importers can claim MODVAT on the goods entering the factory and there is no blocking of working capital.

Warehouses facilities for Indian exporters for storage of tobacco in Russia and South Africa

3145. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVESHANKER DAVE:

SHRI CHIMANBHAI HARIBHAI SHUKLA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up warehouses in Russia and South Africa for the storage of tobacco and other products by the Indian exporters;